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## Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 7:

This application is a continuation of PCT Patent Application No.

PCT/EP02/07314, filed on July 2, 2002, which claims priority to German Patent

Application Number 10131917.7, filed on July 2, 2001.

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## II. <u>Conclusion</u>

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and favorable consideration of the application.

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is requested.

March 30, 2004

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Respectfully Submitted,